Northwest Fisheries Science Center: Today and Tomorrow

NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle WA, provides critical science needed to conserve and manage marine life and their ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest and the West Coast of the United States. We produce science that is relevant, respected, and innovative.

NOAA FISHERIES

Key Species

- Salmon (6 species)
- Killer whales
- Groundfish (90+ species)
- Native shellfish

Technologies We Use

- Acoustic profilers
- Remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles
- Environmental monitors
- Fish and marine mammal telemetry
- Genetic stock identification
- Zebra fish models
- Satellite imagery
- Modified e-readers
- GIS analysis and interpretation
- Bycatch reduction devices

Our Strengths

- Ecosystem science that uses interdisciplinary and multi-scale approaches to further our understanding of ecosystems
- Respected fishery expertise and technologies that support the management and recovery of West Coast groundfish, Pacific salmon, and marine mammals
- Genetic and genomic expertise that provide answers to management, conservation, and recovery questions
- Evaluation of how climate variation impacts conservation of marine and anadromous species
- Application of latest social science models and survey approaches to advance our understanding of humans' role in the ecosystem

What Makes Us Unique

- Watershed-based science that links ecology from the "snowcaps to the whitecaps" for a holistic view of ecosystem processes
- Advanced aquaculture science and technologies that foster sustainable and innovative approaches to fish culture practices
- Expertise in seafood safety and ecological impacts of pollution – employing novel approaches to understand impacts of contaminants, biotoxins, and pathogens in the marine environment
- Proficiency in applied genetic forensic techniques that support natural resource law enforcement cases

New Directions

- Evaluate and improve the West Coast Groundfish Catch Share program by combining data collection and data management processes with novel survey methods and analysis
- Refine the science of Integrated Ecosystem Assessments to provide ecosystem-wide information and tradeoffs for management decision-making
- Utilize innovative experimental approaches to understand impacts of ocean acidification on economically and ecologically important species
- Improve predictive capacities for harmful algal bloom and pathogen events
- Transform infrastructure and operations to meet new energy and safety goals